

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for providing multiple access modes in a data communications network, comprising:~~
 - (a) sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device;
 - (b) determining if the said user device supports a user authentication protocol; and
 - (c) placing the said port into a semi-authorized access state if it is determined that the said user device does not support the said user authentication protocol, the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access;

~~wherein said semi-authorized access state limits access by said user device to a pre-configured network accessible via the data communications network.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-authorized state limits access by the user device to a network, the network selected from the group comprising said pre-configured network comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, the Internet, and a low security virtual local area network (VLAN).
- 3-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the placing step (c) comprises selectively placing the said port into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the placing step (c) comprises:

- (1)–determining a type of ~~the said~~ user device; and
- (2) selectively placing ~~the said~~ port into one of a plurality of ~~semi-authorized semi-~~
~~authorized~~ access states based on ~~the said~~ type of ~~the said~~ user device.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein ~~the selectively placing step (2)~~
comprises selectively placing ~~the said~~ port into a semi-authorized access state that limits
access by ~~the said~~ user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising a Voice over Internet
Protocol (VoIP) network.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein ~~the selectively placing step (2)~~
comprises selectively placing ~~the said~~ port into a semi-authorized access state that limits
access by ~~the said~~ user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising the Internet if ~~the said~~
user device is a portable computing device.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~ user authentication protocol
is IEEE 802.1x.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~ network access device
comprises a network switch.
11. (Currently Amended) A network access device ~~for providing multiple access modes,~~
comprising:
a plurality of input ports;
a plurality of output ports;

a switching fabric for routing data received on the said plurality of input ports to at least one of the said plurality of output ports; and

control logic adapted to determine whether a user device coupled to one of the said plurality of input ports supports a user authentication protocol used by a host network, and to place the said one of the said input ports in a semi-authorized ~~semiauthorized~~ access state if the said authentication protocol is not supported, the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access;

~~wherein the said semi-authorized access state limits access by said user device to a pre-configured network accessible via said host network.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 11, wherein the semi-authorized state limits access by the user device to a network, the network selected from the group comprising said pre-configured network comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) (~~VoIP?~~) network, the Internet, and a low security virtual local area network (VLAN).

13-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 11, wherein the said control logic is adapted to selectively place the said one of the said input ports into one of a plurality of semi-authorized ~~semiauthorized~~ access states.

16. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 15, wherein the said control logic is adapted to determine a type of the said user device and to selectively place the said one of the said input

ports into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states based on the said type of the said user device.

17. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 16, wherein the said control logic is adapted to selectively place the said one of the said input ports into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by the said user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising a Voice over ~~Internet~~ Internet Protocol (VoIP) (~~Vol?~~) network.
18. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 16, wherein the said control logic is adapted to selectively place the said one of the said input ports into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by the said user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising the Internet if the said user device is a portable computing device.
19. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 11, wherein the said user authentication protocol is IEEE 802.1x.
20. (Currently Amended) A network system, comprising:
 - a host network that uses a user authentication protocol;
 - a network access device communicatively coupled to the said host network; and
 - a user device coupled to a port of the said network access device;wherein the said network access device is adapted to determine whether the said user device supports the said user authentication protocol and to place the said port in a semi-authorized access state if the said user authentication protocol is not supported,

~~the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access;~~
~~and~~
~~wherein said semi-authorized access state limits access by said user device to a pre-~~
~~configured network accessible via said host network.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 20, wherein the semi-authorized state limits access by the user device to a network, the network selected from the group comprising said pre-configured network comprises a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, the Internet, and a low-security virtual local area network (VLAN).

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 20, wherein the said network access device is adapted to selectively place the said port into one of a plurality of semi-authorized
~~semiauthorized~~ access states.

25. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 24, where the said network access device is adapted to determine a type of the said user device and to selectively place the said port into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states based on the said type of the said user device.

26. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 25, wherein the said network access device is adapted to selectively place the said port into a semi-authorized access state

that limits access by the said user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) (~~VoIP?~~) network.

27. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 25, wherein the said network access device is adapted to selectively place the said port into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by the said user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising the Internet if the said user device is a portable computing device.
28. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 20, wherein the said user authentication protocol is IEEE 802.1x.
29. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 20, wherein the said network access device is a network switch.
30. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method, the method comprising:
- sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device;
- determining if the said user device supports a user authentication protocol; and
- placing the said port into a semi-authorized access state if it is determined that the said user device does not support the said user authentication protocol, the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access;
- ~~wherein said semi-authorized access state limits access by said user device to a pre-~~
~~configured network accessible via a data communications network.~~

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device;

means for determining if the said user device supports a user authentication protocol;

and

means for placing the said port into a semi-authorized access state if it is determined

that the said user device does not support the said user authentication protocol, the

semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access;

~~wherein said semi-authorized access state limits access by said user device to a pre-~~

~~configured network accessible via a data communications network.~~

32. (New) A method comprising:

sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device; and

allowing the user device limited access to a network via the network access device if it is

determined that the user device is unable to communicate using a particular user

authentication protocol.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising performing further user authentication in

accordance with the user authentication protocol if it is determined that the user device is

able to communicate using the user authentication protocol.

34. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the limited access comprises less access than access

afforded a user device that is successfully authenticated using the user authentication protocol.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the limited access comprises access to a low-security Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN).
36. (New) A network access device comprising:
- a plurality of input ports;
 - a plurality of output ports;
 - a switching fabric for routing data received on the plurality of input ports to at least one of the plurality of output ports; and
 - control logic configured to allow the user device limited access to a network if it is determined that the user device is unable to communicate using a particular user authentication protocol.
37. (New) The network access device of claim 36 wherein the control logic is further configured to perform further user authentication in accordance with the user authentication protocol if it is determined that the user device is able to communicate using the user authentication protocol.
38. (New) The network access device of claim 36 wherein the limited access comprises less access than access afforded a user device that is successfully authenticated using the user authentication protocol.
39. (New) The network access device of claim 38 wherein the limited access comprises access to a low-security Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN).

40. (New) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method, the method comprising: sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device; and allowing the user device limited access to a network via the network access device if it is determined that the user device is unable to communicate using a particular user authentication protocol.
41. (New) An apparatus comprising:
- means for sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device; and
 - means for allowing the user device limited access to a network via the network access device if it is determined that the user device is unable to communicate using a particular user authentication protocol.